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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, the giver of gifts, thank You for Your unchanging promises that we can claim each day. Lord, You have promised to supply our needs and to work everything together for our good.

Bless our lawmakers. Help them to seek not what they can get from You but what Your power can enable them to do for You. Remind them that in prayer they do not so much hear a voice as acquire a voice. Show them how to use that acquired voice to speak for the voiceless. May they even use their pain to put them in touch with the pain of others.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 30, 2013.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. MARKEY thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following the remarks of myself and Senator McCONNELL, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of Alan Estevez to be a Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, working with Senator Hagel. The time until 10:30 a.m. will be equally divided. At 10:30, there will be a cloture vote on the nomination. If cloture is invoked, we expect to confirm this nomination later today and continue with cloture votes on additional nominations.

We always complain about what we don't get done, but I think everyone in the Senate should recognize that as a result of our having changed the rules in the Senate, we are able to move through some of these things much more quickly. We have reduced the time from 30 hours after cloture has been invoked to 8 hours, and that has helped us move through these issues. So everybody complains about our never changing things around here, but we have, and it has helped us.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Senate has the privilege of considering the nominations of many exceptionally talented individuals for a variety of jobs. This week the Senate has already

approved three qualified and dedicated nominees—including Richard Griffin, to serve among the people's watchdogs against labor abuses, and Tom Wheeler, to lead the body that oversees the Nation's telecommunications industries. This week we will consider five other fine public servants for a variety of crucial roles in the executive branch. So when one nominee's personal story and professional dedication stands out in this distinguished crowd, it is remarkable. And it is remarkable when we talk about a woman by the name of Patricia Millett.

Ms. Millett has been chosen by the President to be a nominee to serve on the DC Circuit Court of Appeals. She graduated at the top of her class from the University of Illinois and then attended Harvard Law School. She clerked for the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and served as an appellate attorney in the Justice Department's civil division. She then served as assistant to the Solicitor General under Democratic President Bill Clinton as well as Republican President George W. Bush. Ms. Millett then was chosen to lead the Supreme Court practice at the prestigious law firm of Akin Gump, and has argued more than 32 cases before the U.S. Supreme Court. This is a stunning number that rarely anyone ever reaches. I am sure there are others who have reached this number, but the two who come to my mind are the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court who argued many cases, and a long-time friend, the late Rex Lee, who was Solicitor General for President Reagan. Prior to, during his tenure as Solicitor General, and after he argued many cases before the Supreme Court. But 32 arguments before the Supreme Court is a stunningly high number.

Patricia Millett's professional credentials are matched by her personal integrity and determination. She is a military spouse, mother of two children, who argued a case before the Supreme Court while her husband, who

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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